

Patients who decline to proceed investigation

Key Document code:	WAHT-KD-021	
Key Documents Owner:	Emma Duggan/Felicity Eykyn	Bowel Cancer & Bowel Scope Screening Manager/Bowel Cancer Lead Nurse Specialist Screening Practitioner
Approved by:	Bowel Screening Operational Meeting	
Date of Approval:	24 th April 2017	
Date of review:	11 th February 2022	

Key Amendments

Date	Amendment	Approved by
19 th June 2019	Documents extended for 6 months whilst reviewed	Emma Duggan
11 th Feb 2020	Documents extended for 6 months whilst review and approval is processed	Emma Duggan
27 th July 2020	Documents extended for 6 months during COVID-19 period	QGC/Gold Meeting
1 st March 2021	Document extended for 6 months as per Trust agreement 11/02/2021	
16 th July 2021	Documents extended for 6 months whilst review and approval is processed	Emma Duggan/ Mr Stephen Lake

Introduction

The purpose of this guideline is:

- To ensure patients who attend SSP positive assessment clinic but choose not to proceed with investigations understand the risks involved.
- To ensure that the GP is notified that the patient has declined investigation following abnormal FOBt (Faecal Occult Blood test).
- To ensure patients understand that should they change their mind they are entitled to contact the screening office for investigation to be arranged.
- To ensure that patients are aware that they will receive an FOBt kit every two years under the screening programme whilst they remain within the screening age range.

Scope of This Document

This document applies to Specialist Screening Practitioners (SSPs) within the Herefordshire & Worcestershire Bowel Cancer Screening Programme.

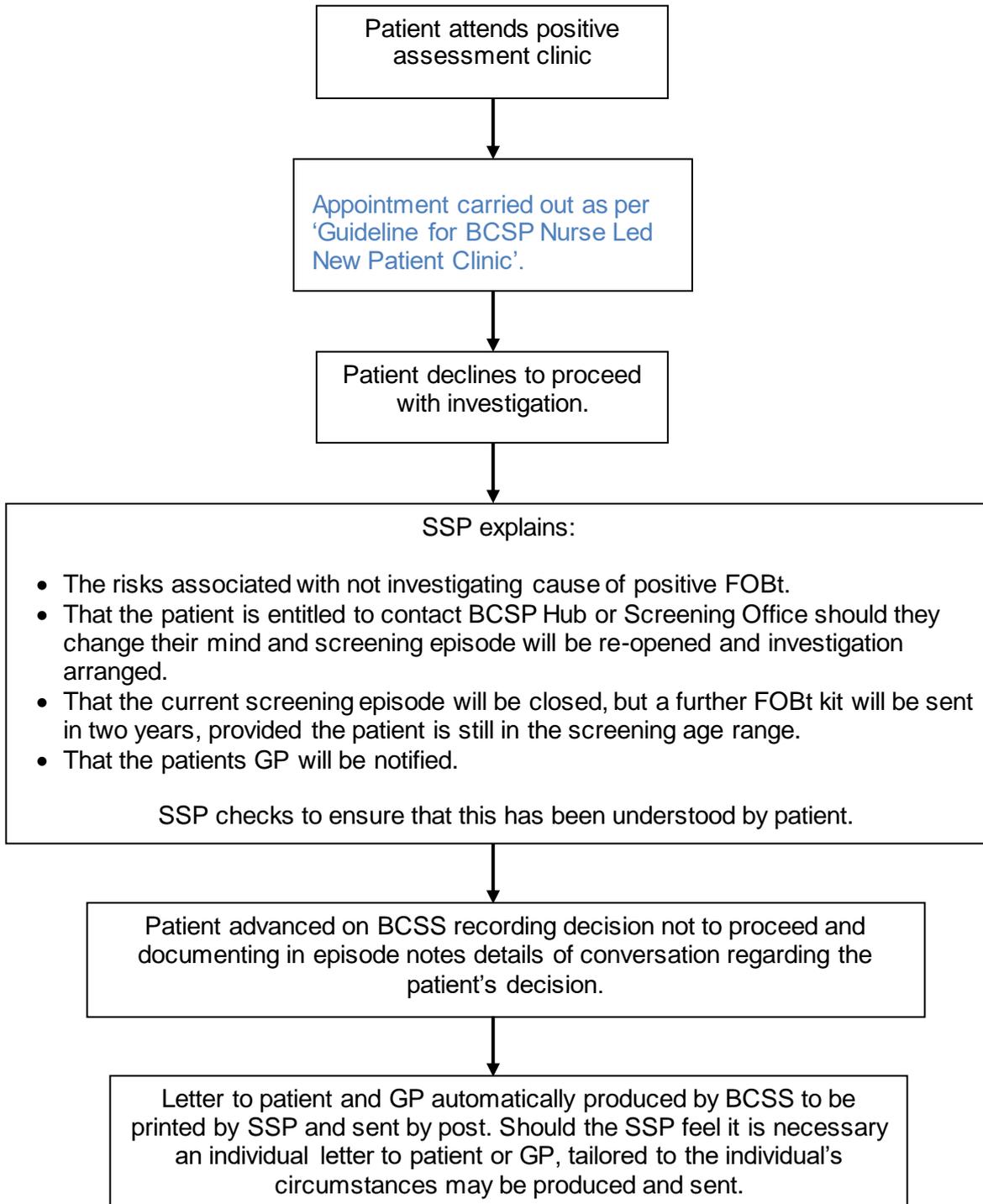
The information within this procedure is in addition to the information available with the 'NHS Bowel Cancer Screening Programme, Guide Book for Programme Hubs and Screening Centres, Version 3, 31 March 2008', specifically section '4.8'.

Implementation

This guideline will be implemented in the event of a patient who declines to proceed with investigations this will include consultation of the policy at the BCSP operational meeting. The policy is available on the trust computer shared drive. All BCSP staff will be notified of this documents existence and it will form part of the induction plan for new staff.

Please note that the key documents are not designed to be printed, but to be used on-line. This is to ensure that the correct and most up-to-date version is being used. If, in exceptional circumstances, you need to print a copy, please note that the information will only be valid for 24 hours and should be read in conjunction with the key document supporting information and/or Key Document intranet page, which will provide approval and review information.

Pathway



Appendix 1 - Example of BCSS Produced GP Letter

25 December 2005

Dr A. GP
A GP Practice
A Town
A City
A County
YY1 5TT

A392 278/7/26

NHS No:333 333 4444

Dear Dr

FOR THE ATTENTION OF GP ONLY: This patient has declined a bowel examination with the Bowel Cancer Screening Programme but has high risk of significant gastrointestinal pathology. You may wish to consider referring them for further examination of the bowel."

The following letter has been sent to Anne BELINDA Example-Subject at Hembury House, Cheriton, Shobrooke, Crediton, Devon, YY1 5TT. Date of Birth: 10/02/1942.

You were recently advised by a specialist screening practitioner that you need further examination of the bowel. You have indicated to us that you do not wish to proceed at this time.

As such, we will not contact you again regarding an appointment. A further screening kit will be sent to you in the post in 2 years time, unless you have reached your 75th birthday by then. People aged 75 or over are not automatically invited for screening, but can request a test kit by calling the Freephone number 0800 707 6060.

If you have changed your mind, or you do not wish to receive a screening test kit in the future please contact the Screening Centre on the above number.

A copy of this letter is also being sent to your GP to keep their records up-to-date regarding your care.

Yours sincerely

Screening Director

Appendix 2 - Example of BCSS Produced Patient Letter

25 December 2005

Mrs Anne B Example-Subject
Hembury House
Cheriton
Shobrooke
Crediton
Devon
YY1 5TT

A396 278/7/26

NHS No:333 333 4444

Dear Mrs Anne Belinda Example-Subject

You were recently advised by our specialist screening practitioner that you need an examination of your bowel. You have indicated to us that you do not wish to proceed at this time. As such, we will not contact you again regarding this appointment.

You should continue to be aware of any bowel symptoms such as:

- A persistent change in bowel habit, especially going to the toilet more often or diarrhoea for several weeks;
- Bleeding from the back passage without any obvious reason;
- Abdominal pain especially if it is severe
- A lump in your abdomen

Please remember that these symptoms do not necessarily mean that you have bowel cancer, but if you have one or more of these symptoms for four to six weeks, you should see your GP.

A further screening kit will be sent to you in the post in 2 years time, unless you have reached your 75th birthday by then. People aged 75 or over are not automatically invited for screening, but can request a further screening kit if they wish by telephoning the freephone number 0800 707 6060.

If you have changed your mind, or you do not wish to receive a screening test kit in the future please contact the screening centre on the above number.

A copy of this letter is also being sent to your GP to keep their records up-to-date regarding your care.

Yours sincerely

Screening Director